

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NASA-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 SCI-03

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R 280634Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6382

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 0927

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PINT, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA SURPLUS EQUIPMENT AND MALAGASY POLITICAL STRUGGLE

REFS: TANANARIVE 0769 AND 0854

BEGIN SUMMARY: DESPITE ABSENCE FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS ON NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS, WE HAVE DECIDED PURSUE TURNOVER CERTAIN NASA SURPLUS EQUIPMENT TO GOMR IN HOPES STRENGTHENING FRIENDLY ELEMENTS IN INTERNAL GOMR STRUGGLE BETWEEN PRO-WEST AND PRO-EAST FORCES.

END SUMMARY.

1. I HAD HOPED HAVE WORD WITH MINISTER TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO ON STATUS RESUMPTION NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS DURING MALAGASY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS JUNE 26, BUT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY DID NOT ARISE.

2. I HAVE NOW DECIDED, WITH CONCURRENCE NASA STATION DIRECTOR, TO GO AHEAD ANYWAY WITH LETTER TO ANDRIAMAHAZO DESCRIBING CERTAIN SURPLUS NASA EQUIPMENT WHICH I HAD OFFERED HIM DURING CONVERSATION JUNE 5. I HAD HELD UP LETTER FOR TWO WEEKS, BUT HAVE CONCLUDED FOR REASONS BELOW THAT IT WOULD SERVE U.S. (INCLUDING NASA) INTERESTS TO PROCEED NOW.

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3. EMBASSY HAS REASON BELIEVE THAT STRUGGLE BETWEEN PRO-WEST AND PRO-EAST FORCES WITHIN GOMR HAS INTENSIFIED WITHIN RECENT WEEKS. FOREIGN OFFICE DIRECTOR BILATERAL RELATIONS RATSIMANDRESY WAS APPARENTLY ALMOST FORCED OUT BECAUSE HE IS REGARDED AS TOO PRO-AMERICAN, BUT IS NOW BACK IN PLACE (EMBASSY PREPARING AIRGRAM ON DETAILS).

4. WHILE I HAVE NOT HEARD ANYTHING IN RECENT WEEKS FROM GENERAL ANDRIAMAHAZO TO ADD TO WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME EARLIER IN YEAR ABOUT PRO-EAST FORCES WITHIN GOVERNMENT, I SUSPECT THAT THEY CONSTITUTE FACTOR WHICH HAS IMPEDED HIS MOVEMENT ON NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS. I THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT PURSUIT OF TURNOVER OF CERTAIN SURPLUS NASA EQUIPMENT (IF HE WISHES IT) MIGHT STRENGTHEN HAND OF THIS GOOD FRIEND OF WEST IN INTERNAL GOMR STRUGGLE. MOREOVER, SINCE NASA WANTS GET RID OF THIS EQUIPMENT WHICH IT CANNOT USE, THERE IS NO OVERRIDING REASON FROM U.S. SIDE FOR CONTINUED DELAY.
MENDENHALL

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Message Attributes

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